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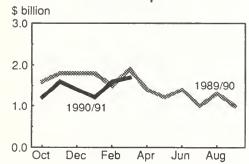
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U.S. Agricultural Trade Update

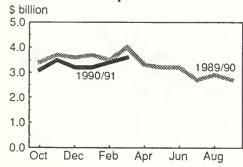
Economic Research Service U.S. Department of Agriculture

May 21, 1991

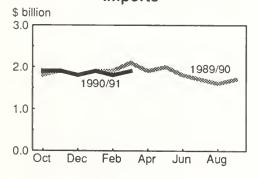
Trade Surplus



Exports



Imports



March Trade Surplus Rises - The agricultural trade surplus was up only 1 percent from February. Most of the rise resulted from higher exports. At \$1.7 billion, the March 1991 surplus was 12 percent below March 1990. Exports rose to \$3.6 billion, imports to \$2 billion. The cumulative trade surplus for October 1990 to March 1991 was \$8.7 billion, 16 percent lower than last year at this time (see table 3).

Agricultural Exports Higher in March - U.S. agricultural exports rose in March. At \$3.6 billion, the value of exports was up 4 percent from February but was 10 percent below last March. Increased shipments of cotton, corn, wheat, and tobacco offset decreases in soybeans and meat products. October through March cumulative exports totaled \$20.1 billion, \$1.8 billion below last year.

Still the single largest export commodity, corn shipments increased 3 percent in March. A total of 4.8 million tons were shipped at a value of \$530 million. The Soviet Union, Japan, and Taiwan continued to be the major recipients of U.S. corn for the third month in a row. The USSR received 1.9 million tons, 40 percent of all corn shipped during the month.

Wheat shipments rose the most in March. Volume increased by 23 percent over February, to 3 million tons. Value increased by 22 percent to \$288 million. The slightly smaller increase in value was due to wheat's declining unit value. Since January, wheat's unit value has been steadily falling. In March, it was \$94, the lowest since mid-1987.

Over one-quarter of the wheat shipments went to the Soviet Union. Other large shipments went to Egypt, China, the Philippines, and Algeria. The value of soybean exports dropped slightly from February to \$408 million. Volume, however, stayed at about 1.8 million tons. The European Community accounted for over one-third of the shipments, followed by Japan, Taiwan, and Mexico.

Cotton export value rose 7 percent in March, the fifth consecutive month of gains. However, its unit value went down to \$1,591 from \$1,651 in February.

Agricultural Imports Up - U.S. agricultural imports rose to \$2 billion in March. Cumulative imports for October through March totaled \$11.4 billion, 2 percent lower than last year. Seasonal increases continued for fresh fruits and vegetables. Coffee and cocoa fell slightly. (Susan Pollack, 202-219-0822).

Export Share of Production Steady in 1990 - During fiscal 1990, 17 percent of all U.S. farm production was exported, about the same as during 1988 and 1989. The share remained below fiscal 1981's record 22 percent. Most of the variation in this share has been due to changes in bulk product exports (such as grains, oilseeds, and cotton), although high-value exports became increasingly important during the 1980's. About 40 percent of all U.S. bulk product production was exported in fiscal 1990, while the comparable figure for high-value products was about 9 percent. However, this 9 percent was the largest share of U.S. high-value production ever exported (Table 4). (Stephen MacDonald, 202-219-0822)

		March						
Commodity group and unit	Thousand	Units	\$ Thous	sands	Thousand units		\$ Thousands	
	1989/90	1990/91	1989/90	1990/91	1990	1991	1990	1991
Fruits - canned ex juice (MT) Fruits - froz ex juice (MT) Other fruits - prep or pres (MT) Fruit juices incl froz (HL) Other fruit juices (HL) Wine (HL) Nuts & prep (MT) Almonds (shelled basis) (MT) Peanuts, shelled or prep (MT) Walnuts, shelled or unshelled (MT) Pecans, shelled or unshelled (MT) Pecans, shelled or prep (MT) Vegetables & prep (NA) Vegetables - fr (MT) Calliflower - fresh (MT) Cauliflower - fresh (MT) Onions - fresh (MT) Onions - fresh (MT) Onther frozen (MT) Other frozen vegetables (MT) Vegetables - froz (MT) Corn, sweet, frozen (MT) Other frozen vegetables (MT) Putatoes - frozen (MT) Other frozen vegetables (MT) Pulses (MT) Dried beans (MT) Dried beans (MT) Dried beans (MT) Other veg - prep or pres (NA) Oilseeds & prods (MT) Oilcake & meal (MT) Oilseeds & MT) Oilcake & meal (MT) Other oilcake & meal (MT) Other oilcake & meal (MT) Other oilcake & meal (MT) Soybean (MT) Soybean oil (MT) Cottonseed oil (MT) Soybean oil (MT) Cottonseed oil (MT) Soybean oil (MT) Soybean oil (MT) Cottonseed oil (MT) Soybean oil (MT)	37 13 23 2,534 1,162 3530 83 1757 577 311 466 477 299 666 340 1555 1509 892 3100 2492 88 12,645 12,384 465 12,384 1233 3665 12,384 1233 1388 237 2492 288 1138 27,446 12,384 1233 1343 1359 2492 289 289 289 289 289 289 289 289 289 2	47 19 31 2,607 1,293 464 310 112 121 52 20 88 859 30 164 97 358 427 358 427 358 427 358 427 358 427 9,190 9,472 9,190 112 9,190 112 127 128 136 148 149 159 179 179 179 179 179 179 179 179 179 17	39, 463 13, 125 29, 453 141, 717 69, 447 72, 300 46, 345 1266, 802 105, 0336 1031, 281 17, 261 16, 796 41, 779 46, 345 116, 221 266, 802 105, 036 1021, 581 117, 261 116, 796 41, 786 31, 984 30, 439 197, 284 158, 192 2116, 202 319, 886 3, 937, 270 594, 603 586, 427 2, 791, 250 31, 984 333, 871 160, 701 40, 953 586, 427 2, 791, 250 31, 884 393, 771 40, 953 586, 427 2, 781, 984 37, 884 383, 971 160, 701 40, 953 578, 893 45, 970 45, 670 40, 953 578, 893 45, 972 87, 336 884 393, 971 160, 701 155, 976 99, 244 1, 557, 403 99, 1255 17, 884 1, 969 186, 574 98, 876 1, 134, 315 181, 325 181,	47,640 26,468 95,122 23,376 19,424 17,130 14,130 16,582 7,583,789 1,440,099 1,346,556 7,583,789 1,440,099 1,346,556 761,208 1,440,203 254,217 104,203 254,217 1185,494 913,303 281,833 631,470	71 48 16 8 29 3 15 5	231 267 800 177 199 11 12 127 135 29 9 101 115 150 28 21 44 433 50 1,828 1,790 177 867 117 867 117 117 118 119 119 119 119 119 119 119	8,848,5346,5346,5346,5346,5346,5346,5346,5346	9,559 27,451 11,103 110,155 73,415 48,481 11,473 3,396 7,423 224,053 73,381 4,275 13,426 33,972 22,745 12,600 16,748 23,777 56,788 76,788 76,789 12,600 16,748 23,777 56,788 76,789 12,600 16,487 7,319 408,357 99,527 99,527 99,527 99,527 12,600 16,487 7,319 408,357 91,811 129,359 11,450 129,479 11,450 11

0	October-March			March Thousand units Thousand dollars						
Commodity and unit		dunits	'	dollars					•	
	1989/90	1990/91	1989/90	1990/91	1	990	1 1	991	1990	1991
Total agricultural imports (NA) Noncompetitive ag imports (NA) Bananas & plantains (MT) Coffee, incl prods (MT) Cocoa & prods (MT) Tea (MT) Spices (MT) Rubber & allied gums - crude (MT) Silk - raw (MT) Wool, unmfg - carpet (MT) Fibers, excl cotton (MT) Essential oils (MT) Other noncompetitive imports (NA) Competitive ag imports (NA) Animals & prods (NA) Animals - live, ex poultry (NO) Cattle (NO) Horses & mules (NO) Swine (NO) Swine (NO) Meats & prods, ex poultry (MT) Beef & veal (MT) Beef & veal - fr or froz (MT) Pork of ror froz (MT) Pork - fr or froz (MT) Pork - prep or pres (MT) Pork - prep or pres (MT) Other meats - fr or froz (MT) Other meats - fr or froz (MT) Other meats & prods (NA) Poultry and prods (NA) Poultry neat (MT) Eggs (NA) Feathers & down - crude (MT) Dairy products (NA) Milk & cream, fr or dried (MT) Butter & butterfat mixtures (MT) Cheese (MT) Casein & mixtures (MT) Other dairy prods (NA) Fats, oils, & greases (MT) Hides & skins (NA) Sheep & lamb skins (MT) Other hides & skins (MA) Furskins (NA) Wool - unmfg, apparel grades (MT) Sausage casings (MT) Bull semen (NA) Misc animal prods (NA) Grains & feeds (MT) Corn, unmilled (MT) Barley, unmilled (MT) Barley, unmilled (MT) Barley, unmilled (MT) Posta & noodles (MT) Corn, unmilled (MT) Posta & noodles (MT) Corn, unmilled (MT) Posta & noodles (MT) Corn, unmilled (MT) Posta & preps (MT) Fruits - prep or pres (MT) Fruits - fro froz (MT) Fruits - prep or pres (MT) Fruits - prep or pres (MT) Priespeles (Fresh (MT) Cashew nuts (MT) Cashew nuts (MT) Coshew ruts (MT) Coshew nuts (MT) Cother fruit siese (MT) Pistachio nuts (MT) Cother nuts (MT)	1,623 1,091 1,091 1,091 555 373 331 42 156 99 58 95 11 10 	1,6346 313 400 53 439 23 	11, 592, 576 2, 843, 496 1, 107, 834 4707, 643 117, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 9643 1, 177, 187, 187, 187, 187, 187, 187, 18	2,779,545 470,797 1,003,933 71,702 338,266 11,647 78,425 78,425 141,333 8,616,497 141,333 8,616,497 141,333		270 198 102 669 8 319 102 669 8 319 102 103 104 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105		71 0 1 8 2 3 290 0 1 8 7 3 3 932 5 5 5 6 2 7 18 9 9 1 1 1 0 0 1 2 0 8 8 6 2 0 2 1	4,043 4,0248 2,248 2,7,943 1,598,906 98,467,763 2,57723 1,52867 2,52867 2,52867 2,52867 2,62867 2,62867 2,62867 2,62867 2,62867 2,62867 2,62867 2,63867 2,6	1,962,104 470,745 83,082 171,637 183,676 17,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,806 2,035 177,939 2,027 2,037 130,680 233,935 2,182 233,935 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 233,937 24,661 232,938 24,737 101,631 18,864 237,785 24,777 101,631 18,864 237,785 131,631 18,864 237,785 131,631 18,865 24,777 131,625 24,777 131,775 131,178 222,625 233,778 2467 7,910 7,91

October-March					March				
Commodity and unit	Thousan	dunits	Thousand	dollars	Thousand	units	Thousand	dollars	
	1989790	1990/91	1989/90	1990/91	1990	1991	1990	1991	
Vegetables & preps (NA) Vegetables - fr or froz (MT) Tomatoes (MT) Beans (MT) Carrots (MT) Carrots (MT) Carrots (MT) Carrots (MT) Eggplant (MT) Eggplant (MT) Garlic (MT) Lettuce (MT) Onions (MT) Peas, incl chickpeas (MT) Peppers (MT) Potatoes (MT) Squash (MT) Other vegs - fr or froz (MT) Vegetables-prep/pres (NA) Olives - prep or pres (MT) Antichokes - prep (MT) Asparagus - prep (MT) Asparagus - prep (MT) Tomatoes, incl paste & sauce (Waterchestnuts (MT) Beans & peas, dried (MT) Other vegetables-prep/pres (NA) Sugar & related prods (NA) Sugar - cane & beet (MT) Molasses (HL) Confectionery prods (MT) Other sugar & related prods (MT) Other bacco - scrap (MT) Other tobacco (MT) Beverages, ex fruit juices (HL) Walt beverages (HL) Oilseeds & oilnuts (MT) Flaxseed (MT) Sesameseed (MT) Sesameseed (MT) Oilseeds & oilnuts (MT) Ocoonut oil (MT) Palm oil (MT) Palm oil (MT) Palm ernel oil (MT) Otton, excl linters (MT) Cotton (inters (MT) Cotton, excl linters (MT) Cotton (inters (MT) Seeds - field & garden (MT) Cotton (inters (MT) Seeds - field & garden (MT) Cotton (inters (MT) Fish fresh or prep (MT) Shellfish (MT) Fish fresh or prep (MT) Fish fresh or prep (MT) Shellfish (MT) Fish fresh or prep (MT) Farm machinery (NA) Tractors & self-prop mach (NO) Other ag mach	1,272 2977 15 162 162 127 98 1577 643 263 1777 63 1777 64 1777	1, 157 220 127 1446 16 88 1152 888 1859 21 328 1859 21 34, 747 4, 747 1367 1364 4, 747 1367 1364 4, 488 14, 488 14, 488 14, 488 14, 488 16, 488 17, 748 18, 747 18, 748 18, 74	1,438,797 910,610 350,598 23,247 19,437 19,437 19,437 164,099 15,459 8,407 64,099 15,459 116,997 13,554 116,997 136,831 143,231 528,137 13,581 528,137 13,580 13,784 532,446 501,541 501,541 321,485 322,487 13,387 588,682 258,737 15,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 15,737 907,657 164,870 174,470 1750 1750 1750 1750 1750 1750 1750 17	1,170,841 1,170,841 1,170,841 1,170,841 1,0845 1,040 1,0845 1,0845 1,040 1,0845	766347321115195197	277 66 2 4 3 4 2 1 5 6 4 7 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 0 0 8 3 4 1 1 5 1 8 2 1 1 8 6 1 9 1 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	308,767,7670 8,767,7670 99,98860 102,359510 102,359510 102,359510 103,4903 103,4903 103,4903 103,4903 103,4903 103,59510 103,4903 103	24, 188 155, 8339 11, 807 22, 38, 466 11, 807 22, 47, 510 11, 807 22, 44, 510 11, 807 21, 47, 48, 510 11, 807 21, 47, 48, 510 11, 807 21, 47, 48, 510 11, 807 11,	

^{1/} Excludes quantity data on anhydrous ammonia in 1989/90. All other statistics are preliminary. NA = Not available. Zeroes in quantity columns represent none or less than 500 units.

Table 3--U.S. agricultural trade summary (\$ Million)

Table 5--U.S. agricultural exports (\$ Million)

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year to Chg. fm. date prev. yr.		
gricultural exports	3,218	3,492	3,636		Percent -8.2	
mports (c.i.f.) mports (Customs val.) rade Balance:	3,218 2,148 1,930	3,492 2,005 1,869	2,144 1,962	20,092 12,249 11,396	-5.0 -1.7	
Exports minus cif imports Exports minus Customs	1,070	1,487	1,492	7,843	-12.8	
valued imports Preliminary data.	1,288	1,623	1,673	8,696	-15.6	

Commodity group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year to date	Change from prev. year
Total Live animals Meat & preps Dairy prod & eggs Animal fats Hides & skins Wheat Rice Corn Other feed grains Animal feeds Soybeans Vegetable oils Horticult. prods. Cotton & linters Tobacco, unmfg.	3,218 291 30 32 143 188 51 396 259 360 59 559 365 116	3,492 38 325 32 288 132 236 68 510 75 276 412 52 574 362 99	3,636 40 293 32 399 124 288 64 530 272 408 54 608 388 129	20,092 356 1,776 180 193 778 1,394 418 2,568 447 1,523 2,115 3,738 1,808 825	Percent -8.2 30.0 18.7 -13.7 -20.3 -13.6 -38.0 -16.2 -3.4 -24.2 -16.9 22.5 15.3 -1.1
Deal iminary data					

Preliminary data.

Table 4--Exported share of U.S. farm production, FY 1980-1990

Table 6--U.S. agricultural imports (\$ Million, Customs value)

Fiscal year	Total exports	Bulk exports 1/	High-value exports 2/	
-		Percent		
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989	20.7 22.1 19.6 18.2 19.2 15.7 14.3 17.0 18.0 16.9	40.3 42.0 37.5 32.9 45.6 32.2 28.5 34.3 38.9 45.5	7.3 8.5 7.7 7.5 6.6 6.8 7.3 7.4 8.5 8.5	
1/ Moc	tly grains and r	reducts and allea	nds and products	

Commodity group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year to date	Change fro prev. year
Total Live animals Meat & preps. Dairy prod, eggs Grains & feeds Fruits & nuts Vegetables Vegetable oils Wine Malt beverages Coffee Cocoa Rubber, natural Sugar-cane & beet Tobacco, unmfg. Seeds, flowers	1,930 105 229 55 89 287 226 62 53 207 101 51 73 54	1,869 99 218 49 988 303 227 66 54 190 80 47 44 68 69	1,962 106 240 56 101 326 68 66 71 172 79 600 56 58	11,396 657 1,441 387 632 1,716 1,171 382 508 408 1,010 504 338 339 305 389	Percent -1.7 17.8 0.5 -16.7 5.9 -3.0 -18.6 9.8 0.9 8.0 -8.8 7.1 -7.5 5.1

Mostly grains and products, and oilseeds and products.

Mostly fruits, nuts, vegetables, and livestock products.

Preliminary data.

This report is available through USDA's Computerized Information Delivery Service (CIDS) three working days following release of the Commerce Department's monthly U.S. merchandise trade data. Call Russell T. Forte, Office of Information, 202-447-5505.

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